

13, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted "Nay."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF BERKSHIRE THEATRE

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 14, 2018*

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Berkshire Theatre on the occasion of its 90th anniversary. It is one of the oldest continually running theatre groups in the country. Located in the heart of the Berkshire Mountains, the group is an exemplary representation of what Western Massachusetts has to offer.

Berkshire Theatre Festival was founded in 1928 in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Over the course of its storied history, it has been both a significant economic driver in the region and a home to people and events which have greatly contributed to the vibrancy of our country's cultural heritage. In 2010, Berkshire Theatre Festival merged with The Colonial Theatre to form the Berkshire Theatre Group, combining two of Berkshire County's oldest cultural institutions and icons of the American theatre tradition. Berkshire Theatre Group's four total stages have featured many critically acclaimed actors and award-winning productions over the years, and constitute a priceless cultural resource for the community of Western Massachusetts. Moreover, Berkshire Theatre Festival's Playhouse, which is now known as the Fitzpatrick Main Stage, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. In addition to these remarkable distinctions, Berkshire Theatre Festival also launched a theatrical school in 1929 that continues today to offer internship programs in acting, directing, design, administration, and technical theatre. With these offerings as well as many other educational outreach programs, Berkshire Theatre Group is able to serve over 13,000 students.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to reiterate that Berkshire Theatre has been a group of historical importance and cultural renaissance since its founding in 1928. It's admirable promotion of the arts, focus on educational opportunities, and diverse community benefits are certainly worthy of recognition. Berkshire Theatre has undoubtedly been a center for creativity which continues to enrich, invigorate, and transform artists and audiences alike. As Berkshire Theatre celebrates its 90th anniversary, I wish the group all the best and much continued prosperity.

RECOGNIZING DANIELLE TAETS FOR HER 1A STATE TITLE IN THE TRIPLE JUMP AND 100 METER HURDLES

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 14, 2018*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Danielle Taets, a freshman from Orion High School, for earning the Class 1A

title for the Illinois State Championship in triple jump and the 100 meter hurdles for track and field.

Danielle Taets completed her 38 foot qualifying leap in triple jump and ran the 100 meter hurdles to claim her title as state champion, and I would like to recognize Danielle for her tremendous accomplishment. Danielle's dedication and passion for her sport meant that she was determined to win gold. As a former athlete, I understand the amount of hard work and commitment to be awarded such a title. Danielle is an example of the importance of dedication and a strong work ethic. I am proud there is such young talent in our community, and to see her represent Orion throughout the state.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Danielle Taets on her title, and I join the rest of the community in wishing her every success in the future.

RECOGNIZING NORTHEAST GEORGIA'S SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTEES

**HON. DOUG COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 14, 2018*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Northeast Georgia's 14 service academy appointees.

Emmi Schakat of Blairsville, Gavin Jones of Rabun Gap, A.J. Howard of Toccoa, and Owen Brown of Commerce will begin their careers at the U.S. Military Academy. Cole Wright of Blairsville will begin a similar path at the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School.

The U.S. Naval Academy will welcome Chase Nufer of Gainesville and Jarad Ford of Danielsville. Jack Haller of Cumming and Loretta Strickland of Blue Ridge will attend the U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School.

Two rising midshipmen who will attend the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy are Mackenzie Ralston of Blue Ridge and Timothy Leurart of Ball Ground, and the U.S. Air Force Academy will open its campus to Michael Herrington of Flowery Branch, Cameron Sturdivant of Gainesville, and Audrey Weiner of Gainesville.

I proudly nominated each of these students for their service to our community and dedication to our country. Over the next several years, these Northeast Georgia students will further their education and develop the leadership skills needed to best serve our country as military officers.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud these young leaders as they prepare for the challenges ahead, and I will keep them in my prayers as they enter a new season at America's military service academies.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SCOTT TAYLOR**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 14, 2018*

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, as a result of my state's primary being held on 6/12/18, I missed the below votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 258; Yea on Roll Call No. 259; and Yea on Roll Call No. 260.

KATY ISD POLICE OFFICERS RECEIVE CHIEF'S MERITORIOUS CITATION AWARD

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 14, 2018*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officers Christopher Pickering, Michael Seiss and Jose Gonzales of the Katy Independent School District for receiving the Chief's Meritorious Citation Award.

Tragically, suicide is a growing problem with our youth today. Thankfully, we have heroes among us who choose to be in the right place at the right time. Officers Pickering, Seiss and Gonzales were credited with helping save the lives of two students who were thinking of committing suicide. On January 8, Officer Pickering was dispatched to a home amid reports of a possible suicide attempt by a Katy ISD student. This student was helped by Pickering's crisis intervention training and after building a friendship with the officer, agreed to undergo a mental health evaluation. The student later told the Katy ISD Police Department that Officer Pickering's actions and concern that day kept him from taking his life. Officers Seiss and Gonzales were dispatched to Cinco Ranch High School on March 7 after hearing reports of another possible suicide. They acted promptly and showed the true heart of heroes. The quick actions of these two officers helped save the student's life. Katy ISD Police Chief Robert Jinks proudly claimed that these three men revealed their bravery, character, and heroism for their community. For their dedication to the well-being of the Katy ISD, we thank them for their service and heroism.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Officers Christopher Pickering, Michael Seiss and Jose Gonzales of the Katy ISD Police Department for receiving the Chief's Meritorious Citation Award. I thank them for their commitment to our students. Their passion and heart for the Katy ISD community is priceless.

RECOGNIZING NICK SWARTZENDRUBER FOR HIS 2A STATE TITLE IN THE 400 METER DASH IN TRACK AND FIELD

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 14, 2018*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nick Swartzendruber, a senior from Geneseo High School, for earning the Class 2A title for the Illinois State Championship in the 400 meter dash for track and field.

Nick Swartzendruber ran 48.49 seconds in the 400 meter dash to claim his title as state champion, and I would like to recognize Nick for his tremendous accomplishment. Nick's dedication and passion for his sport meant that he was determined to win gold. As a